



The Gardening Gazette

The Gardening Gazette is a free quarterly newsletter from the Clayton County Master Gardener Extension volunteers. We provide information on Master Gardener projects and tips to local homeowners.

www.claytoncountymastergardeners.org

(A 501(c)(3) organization)

Fall 2013

SEASONAL CALENDAR

OCTOBER – The month for digging, dividing and transplanting

- The pansy planting season begins now.
- Dig/divide/transplant perennials.
- Mulch all beds for winter.
- Plant new shrubs and trees now thru Feb.
- Clean and prepare vegetable gardens.
- Bermuda/Zoysia/Centipede: Apply pre-emergent early in the month.
- Blooming: Toad Lily, Tea Olive, Sasanqua Camellia and some Witchhazels.

NOVEMBER – The month for planting

- Plant shrubs, trees, vines and groundcovers
- Dig up caladium, elephant ear and dahlia bulbs while you can still find them. Store in boxes of peat moss.
- Plant spring bulbs when the soil is cool, around Thanksgiving.
- Now is a good time to take a soil sample to the County Extension Office.
- Apply lime to vegetable beds, if necessary.
- Transplant material as it goes dormant.
- Fertilize Fescue lawns; pre-emerge Bermuda and Zoysia lawns for winter weeds.
- November 21st is the average date for the first frost.
- Blooming: Sasanqua Camellia

DECEMBER – The month for relaxing

- Plant Sweet Peas.
- Last chance to plant bulbs.
- Continue to plant new shrubs and trees.
- Buy new seeds and make plans to install in spring.
- Repair garden tools – sharpen mower blades.
- Shut down and drain irrigation system.
- Observe the yard/garden. It is often easier to see areas that need improvement when many plants are dormant.
- Blooming: Lenten Rose, Camellia

NUISANCE WEEDS

Weeds have a seasonal life cycle. Some germinate in the winter and grow into the spring. These are cool season weeds, i.e. henbit and annual bluegrass. Warm season weeds come up in the spring and grow into the summer, i.e. crabgrass and lespedeza.

The key to weed control is prevention and persistence. For best weed control, it is highly recommended that pre-emergent lawn treatment be used in early October and then 8 weeks later to prevent cool season weeds. Follow up with a post-emergent broadleaf weed treatment for weeds that escape the preventative herbicide. Herbicides applied in the fall will not control warm season weeds that come up in the spring.

Carefully select the correct herbicide for your lawn type and type of weeds you have. When using herbicides, follow the label directions. DO NOT use near trees, shrubs or their roots unless that herbicide is labeled for use around that shrub or tree.

FIRST FROST DATES

YEAR	DATE	TEMP
2012	Nov. 9	31.9
2011	Nov. 11	30.3
2010	Nov. 6	31.5
2009	Dec. 1	30.1
2008	Oct. 29	31.9

FALL LANDSCAPE ACTIVITIES

- Plant or move woody trees, shrubs and many perennials. Late fall and winter is generally the best time to plant or more this plant material.
- Take a soil sample to look for low pH or fertility problems. This is especially important with St. Augustine, Bermuda, Fescue and Zoysia lawns.
- Conduct a sprinkler performance test. Look for leaks, controller problems, blocked heads, etc.
- Re-set sprinkler systems so they run less often. Typically once a week should be plenty in the fall.
- Keep leaves raked up. This will prevent leaf matting during rains which can smother the grass.
- Check trees and identify hazards that need to be dealt with. Trees are easier to evaluate for hazards when they have no leaves.
- Conduct needed maintenance on all of your outdoor equipment. You may be surprised how much better a sharp mower blade cuts a lawn.
- Check mulched beds and add mulch, if needed. Mulch beds to prevent weed problems by applying mulch 2 to 4 inches thick.
- Use information from the UGA Extension or online at www.gauranag.org.

FALL COLOR TIPS & TRICKS

- Add color through the use of snapdragons, dianthus, pansies and violas.
- Add texture to the garden through the use of ornamental cabbage and herbs such as rosemary and parsley.
- Plant pansies and violas from Oct. 15-Nov. 15. They need to develop strong root systems before frost but can be damaged by heat.
- Use water soluble slow release fertilizer to feed pansies and violas in winter.

STORING SUMMER BULBS

Summer bulbs that require winter protection:

- Begonias: Once flowering ceases and before the first frost, bring in begonias. Allow stems to dry. Store "as is" or dig up the tubers. Dug tubers should be allowed to dry for a few days and then stored in layers of slightly moist vermiculite or sawdust. Keep at 40F to 55F degrees.
- Alocasia: Dig up and store after frost has killed the foliage and store them in sawdust or mulch.
- Caladium: Lift them after the first frost. Allow tubers to dry and layer in dry peat or vermiculite and store at 50-60F degrees.
- Calla Lily: After foliage has been damaged by frost, cut off tops about 2" above soil line. Lift and dry rhizomes in a warm, dry location for one or two weeks. Bury the rhizomes in vermiculite, sawdust or peat and store at 45-55F degrees.
- Colocasia: Bring indoors to overwinter. Dig bulbs after the plant has died back and store them in sawdust or mulch.
- Dahlia: Lift from the ground and be careful not to break the tuber "necks". Store at 40-50F degrees in a paper bag or box filled with peat moss or dry sand.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Noontime Knowledge, "Fall Holiday Arrangement", October 24th, Patsy Fier, Southwood Garden Club; 12:15 PM-1:00 PM. Classes are held @ "The Beach", Clayton County International Park, on the 4th Thursday of the month.
- "Garden Variety", Master Gardener Symposium @ Eula Ponds Perry Learning Center, 137 Spring Street, Jonesboro; four great speakers: Jim Rogers, Nearly Native Nursery; Larry Dove, Two Doves Farm; Craig Luna, Luna's Lilies and Erica Glasener, A Gardener's Diary on HGTV; door prizes and a raffle; Saturday, October 26th; 9:00 AM-4:00 PM; \$35.00.

Call the Extension Office @770-473-5434 for more Symposium information and to register for the free class on October 24th. Please join us!